

SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY  
PUBLIC WORKSHOP  
CHICO, CA  
MARCH 1, 2007

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

QUESTIONS

1. Will there be an effort to develop subregional priorities and how?
2. Would SNC be monitoring the management of easements that it grants funds to purchase?

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

COMMENTS

1. **Would like language in project examples that is specific to groundwater importance outside of IWRMP.**
2. What about covering water issues? Want to keep water in the county.
3. **Cultural tourism: How about including opportunities for volunteer development? Tourism for the arts is a huge need.**
4. Is SNC forming relationships with Federal and State agencies? They have recent studies and it would be great to get access to them.
5. Wondering if an SNC goal might be preventing sprawl, promoting infill.
6. In regards to Tourism/Recreation program area: Some areas are rural and have infrastructure load problems for activities such as wineries/boating, need roads.
7. Interested in planning grants.

GRANT GUIDELINES

QUESTIONS

1. Can funds be leveraged against other funds (ex. biomass generation project, etc?)
2. City of Chico has "Cool Cities" initiative, but staff lacks expertise to implement. Is this covered?
3. Regarding Bidwell Park: Staff doesn't have ecological/cultural expertise to prepare a master management plan, could that be covered?
4. **How will grants be reviewed and what are the timelines?**
5. Requiring dollar/dollar match?
6. **Will there be time limits on use of grant funds? Some may be big (ex. Shaded fuel break could take years). Is it better to do incrementally or as a large project? What is the best way to do big projects with partners?**
7. Are funds available for search and rescue and/or fire towers?
8. **Long term responsibility for future project maintenance: Whose is it? Example of fuelbreaks: Landowner/stakeholder/government responsibility?**

9. Will SNC give money without a maintenance plan? Considered working with Resource Conservation Districts and Fire Safe Councils on maintenance?
10. **Strategic Opportunity Grants (SOGs): Is there a preference for small projects that lead to something bigger versus small projects in their entirety?**
11. Will there be grants for youth employment?
12. How do you see the initial grant timeline?
13. What is the dollar range for SOGs?
14. What will be the statewide budget for the first year of SOGs?
15. Will Competitive Grants be out in June of next year?
16. **Will grants have a quarterly reporting cycle? Or a to-the-end reporting cycle?**
17. **Will funds be advanced? Or will there be a lag in reimbursement?**
18. **What will fiscal requirements for agencies be? How to document capacity to administer grants?**
19. Can you match State funds with State funds?
20. Will any of the funding be allocated for land purchasing?
21. **Any idea how long it will take to get an answer once a completed grant application has been submitted?**
22. **In the criteria for evaluating projects: how about incorporating watershed plans in addition to Federal, State, and local plans?**
23. Will competitive grants be awarded in time for the 2008 construction season?

## GRANT GUIDELINES COMMENTS

1. Will competitive grants be awarded more frequently than one time per year? That could be helpful to applicants.
2. **Who will review project applications? Would non-staff review? Wouldn't recommend having someone local to project review (conflicts).**
3. Museums tend to be staffed by older volunteers. It would be great to institute training programs to highlight area resources. Is there ability to leverage city resources for training?
4. Newcomers to grant process will have a tough time with applications and will need assistance.
5. **What will be allowable overhead rates? Administrative fees? Section may need clarification.**
6. How to deal with legislative restrictions on funding? (Example: Prop. 40 funding is very restrictive.)
7. **Want watershed plan conformance to be criteria for evaluation.**
8. **Regarding Grant Guidelines, Project Proposal and Evaluation: Sustainability looks like it could go under #1 on page 7, not just #8.**

### OTHER QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

1. Concerned regarding infrastructure for evacuating during a disaster. A big issue is preparing law enforcement.
2. Real concern up here is wildfire, will just destroy a watershed.
3. Can SNC hold land easements?
4. Will SNC have an online application?
5. How is the boundary of SNC defined?
6. Is SNC connected with Chico State?
7. Interested in FERC re-licensing project information: is it in the e-library? Lots of resource information involved.
8. SNC should link to area fire safe plans (much is on the web: Community Wildfire Protection Plans or CWPP at <http://www.cafirealliance.org/cwpp/>).
9. Interested in making contact with other attendees. Provide checkbox on sign-in sheet if people are ok sharing their information?

### SUBREGIONAL ISSUES RAISED

1. Reduce risk of wildfire/minimization of effects
2. Water quality/quantity
3. Increased opportunities for tourism and recreation
4. Assisting subregional economy (youth employment)
5. Cultural resources/tourism
6. Maintenance
7. Sprawl
8. Infrastructure needs